

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: REGIONWIDE

County: PLUMAS, PLACER, NEVADA

Applicant: SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL

Project Title: NORTHERN SIERRA CARBON COOPERATIVE – ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INVENTORY

Reference Number: SNC 070304

PROJECT SCOPE

The project proposes to utilize California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) Forest Protocols to inventory carbon and other ecosystem services on two properties (Waddle Ranch in Martis Valley outside Truckee and Heart K Ranch in Plumas County). The project also proposes a series of workshops to build capacity among the professional forestry community and other natural resource and land managers and students in the Sierra. The purpose of the workshops will be to help these groups understand and develop skills to work with the CCAR protocols for conducting inventories on other forestlands in the Sierra Nevada so that payments for carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services might begin to fund critical forest management and restoration activities in Sierra watersheds. The project will dedicate funds to support Sierra Business Council's active engagement in the CCAR forest working group and other forest groups working to address climate change. Engagement with these groups will allow Sierra Business Council to support efforts to establish a viable carbon credit market in the Sierra Nevada region.

A final report will be submitted six (6) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop draft inventory methodology for carbon and other ecosystem services	April-May 2008
Two educational workshops for professional foresters and natural resource and land managers to develop sampling methodology and field methods for inventories.	May-July 2008
Two hands-on educational workshops for students in ecosystem inventory field methods.	August-September 2008
Accurate inventory measurements for Waddle and Heart K properties that will meet third party certification through CCAR and state-approved certifiers.	September 2008

Participation in 80% of the CCAR Forest Working Group meetings and other appropriate Forest/Climate Change Working Group meetings that take place between April 2008 and September 2008.	April 2008 – September 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	October 31, 2008

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Develop Inventory Methodology and actively engage in CCAR and other Forest working groups	\$9,900
Educational Workshops	\$6,075
Complete Inventories	\$29,025
GRAND TOTAL	\$45,000

Letters of Support:

- Feather River Land Trust

Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of this application in the amount of: \$45,000.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: SNC 070304 Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative-Ecosystem Services Inventory

The Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative is a program developed by the Sierra Business Council (SBC) to develop and market a portfolio of forest conservation, management, and reforestation projects in accordance with the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) Forest Protocols. The goal of the program is to encourage the sequestration of carbon and the creation of verifiable emission reduction credits in the Sierra Nevada as a means of hastening the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through private markets. The carbon sequestration method used will be the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere and long-term storage of carbon in terrestrial ecosystems through photosynthesis.

SBC will work in partnership with land trusts, land owners, and other conservation partners in the northern Sierra Nevada, guiding these partners through the process to meet the strict standards and emerging policy developments in California. SBC will market the projects as value-added forest carbon offset projects in order to capture the value of carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services, such as water quality, provided by the rich forest landscapes of the Northern Sierra. The projects focus on and support a variety of co-benefits including rural economic development, recreation, water quality, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

In piloting this program, SBC has selected two forest properties in the Northern Sierra. One property is Waddle Ranch in Martis Valley, a 1481 acre property of which approximately 1100 acres is dominant Jeffrey Pine mixed conifer forest. The second property is the 883 acre Heart K Ranch in Plumas County, about half of which has mixed conifer forest cover. The first step in establishing a project with CCAR is conducting a complete forest carbon inventory on both properties. The forest management plans will have significant overlap. Educational opportunities in measuring ecosystem services for high school and college students as well as for forestry professionals will be linked to the required sampling activities, thus achieving the added benefit of lowering the costs of on-the-ground measurements.

SBC has identified a purchaser for the Verified Emission Reduction credits from these projects, secured an option agreement, and begun to outline the Purchase and Sale Agreement for these credits. Completion of the forest inventory will allow the agreement to be completed and the value created from the sale to be applied to forest management on site, and the expansion of the 'portfolio project' approach to continue in the Northern Sierra.

The Sierra Business Council estimates that the financial need to conduct the forest inventories and provide educational opportunities will be approximately \$79,500. SBC is applying for \$45,000 of this amount through SNC SOG funds.